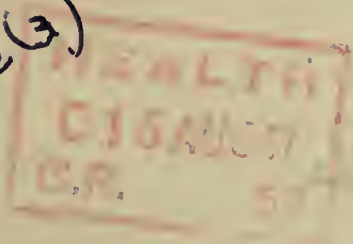


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RURAL DISTRICT OF WEST ASHFORD

KENT

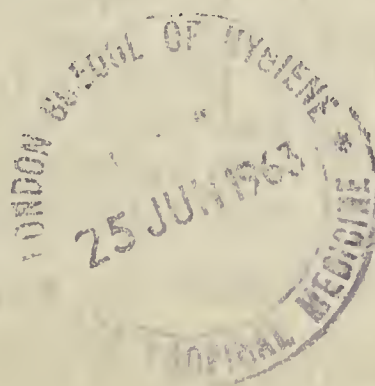


ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1956



Ans.

WEST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT, KENT.

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and  
Senior Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1956.

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my first Annual Report.

According to the estimate of the Registrar General, the mid-year Home Population of the District was 10,330, which represents an increase by 40 over that of 1955.

The number of live-births was 156, which were 6 less than in 1955, and the equivalent birth-rate was 15.10; when this rate is adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which takes account of age and sex distribution, based on a standard population, it becomes 16.01, compared with that for England and Wales which was 15.7. The high post-war birth rates have gradually declined to an equilibrium around 15 where they are likely to remain stabilised.

The number of still-births was 4, giving a rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births of 12.66, which compares favourably with that for England and Wales, i.e. 23.0. The best safe-guards against a high rate are adequate ante-natal supervision and skilled obstetric attention.

There were 5 infant deaths and accordingly the infantile mortality rate was 32.05; that for England and Wales was 23.8. Three of those deaths were due to Prematurity, which is usually the chief cause of neo-natal infant deaths; the other two were due to (i) Haemorrhagic disease of the new-born and (ii) Broncho-pneumonia and Prematurity. It should, however, be kept in mind, that these figures are small for statistical comparisons and that small increases or decreases in these figures would influence the rates disproportionately.

No death occurred amongst mothers due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion. It is very gratifying to record that these deaths are now comparatively rare, owing to the application of modern medical knowledge in the fields of prevention and treatment, particularly in relation to Puerperal Sepsis, which before the introduction of the Sulphonamides and Antibiotics was the cause of much illness and many deaths.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 219 (117 males, 102 females). It should be stated, however, that 53 of those deaths were residents in Hothfield Chronic Sick Hospital, where the mortality is naturally high. For this reason the crude death rate of the District was high viz. 21.10, but when adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, the rate falls to 10.18, which is lower than that for England and Wales viz. 11.7.

The chief cause of deaths was due to Heart Disease and related Circulatory Diseases, as these diseases are the natural terminal cause of deaths amongst the aged. 23 of these deaths were due to disease of the coronary artery of the heart and it is not insignificant that 17 of these deaths were amongst men which was treble those amongst women. This disease is one of three causes of deaths that are on the increase, the other two being Cancer of the Lung and Leukaemia, notwithstanding the expanding field of medical knowledge. One hypothesis put forward is that it is a stress disease, associated with the increasing pace of competitive existence; another that it is associated with excessive smoking. These would seem to be reasonable hypotheses.



The second highest cause of deaths was Bronchitis which caused 32 deaths. As the majority of these deaths were amongst aged in-patients in the Chronic Sick Hospital, Hothfield, this number of deaths is misleading as regards the District as a whole and should not be regarded as being indicative of an unhealthy climate or atmosphere; in fact, the opposite is the case.

The third highest cause of deaths was Cancer, of which there were 22 deaths. Five of these deaths were due to Cancer of the Lung, one of these having occurred in Hothfield Hospital. The ages at deaths were 35, 50, 62, 68 and 72, and they were all males in assorted occupations. It is reasonable to assume that excessive smoking may be a contributory cause amongst susceptible or allergic individuals, but it is difficult to reconcile the fact that it is a primary cause as otherwise everybody who smoked would be doomed to die from Cancer of the Lung. Early diagnosis with all forms of Cancer is of extreme importance when modern methods of treatment can completely cure the disease. Delay by patients in seeking medical advice is probably the most important factor in late diagnosis.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional incidence.

There was no death caused by the Infectious Diseases. This would probably be regarded by those who lived in the last Century, if they lived to-day, as being the greatest of all modern medical phenomena, for in those days the infectious diseases decimated communities almost overnight, and caused incredible suffering.

An outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred in the village of Charing centred in the primary school. Altogether, 27 cases were notified. It became necessary to swab the noses and throats of all the children (188) and of the staff of five, as the carrier rate was obviously high. 32 children were found to be carrying the B.haemolytic streptococcus in nose and/or throat; one had a septic sore on his ear which gave a pure culture of the organism. Each child was treated at home, by Penicillin and Sulphonamides, to which the organism was sensitive and not released back to school until two consecutive negative swabs were obtained, this was also applied to convalescent children. Thereafter, the number of cases quickly declined until the School finally became free from infection. It was interesting that the organism was the epidemic type iv, which is capable of causing Acute Nephritis but in this outbreak no cases with this complication were reported. The more severe cases who were in the minority, were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital; four of those cases suffered from early Otitis Media without Otorrhoea, which responded successfully to treatment.

There was also a scattered outbreak of Whooping Cough in the villages, 77 cases having been notified. It is not practicable to prevent the spread of this disease, by reason of the fact that it is most infectious for about seven days before the onset of the whoop, when it is confused with the common cold by parents. The infection is rapidly disseminated during this period throughout school class-rooms. The disease is most dangerous to infants, particularly those a few weeks or months old, and every effort should be made to keep them apart from their school brothers or sisters when the disease is prevalent, as asphyxiation due to excessive secretion of mucus or to broncho-pneumonia may supervene quickly within 12 - 24 hours. The only certain method of prevention would be by immunisation and it is hoped that the new vaccines, which have been approved by the Ministry of Health, will be as effective as immunisation has been against Diphtheria. These vaccines will be available in the immediate future in the County Council Child Welfare Clinics and have been available through the family Doctor since the inception



of the National Health Service in 1948.

Only 19 cases of Measles were notified. Outbreaks of this disease usually occur every second year, when there is a sufficient number of susceptible children, and, like Whooping Cough, it is not practicable to prevent its spread as it is most infectious for several days before the typical rash appears, which identifies it in the eyes of the parents. It is highly infectious and spreads rapidly in class-rooms. The most common and serious complication is broncho-pneumonia, which occasionally immediately precedes the onset of the disease or may develop within 12 hours during any phase of the illness. Treatment with antibiotics is usually successful, excepting with the very advanced cases. The only means of prevention is by passive immunisation using convalescent serum or Gamma globulin but it is not practicable or desirably to use this on a large scale. It is, however, advisable to use Gamma globulin when a susceptible child, who is suffering from other illness, becomes exposed to measles infection and if given within five days from exposure will prevent an attack, or within a few days later, would attenuate it. Gamma globulin is available at the Public Health Laboratory, Preston Hall, Maidstone, on application.

One case of Typhoid Fever occurred in the District, but the patient who was a nurse and had just arrived home on leave, had become infected in another District and was incubating the disease when she arrived. She made a complete recovery and there were no secondary cases. The organism was an untypable vi. strain and the source of infection was not ascertained. Cases of Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever are now comparatively rare.

There was also one case of Erysipelas but this disease which was very serious before the discovery of the Sulphonamides and Antibiotics, responds dramatically to treatment by the latter and is not now regarded as an important infectious disease.

Three cases of Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified. As secondary Pneumonias are not notifiable the total number of cases is not known. Nine deaths from Pneumonia were registered; none of these occurred in Hothfield Chronic Sick Hospital.

Three new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified. The Chest Physician for the area is responsible for arranging their treatment, for the examination of contacts and for investigating the source of infection. Modern methods of prevention and treatment are gaining ascendancy over this disease which was once so great a scourge that it was named the White Plague. Facilities for ascertainment have greatly improved: for example, immediate X-ray examination in Hospital is available to Practitioners, and the Mass Radiography Service visits the various Districts in rotation; this latter service is of great value in detecting unsuspected cases who are or would become sources of infection to others. Modern treatment has achieved very encouraging results, and there are solid grounds for hope that the disease will be eradicated from the Country in the not too distant future.

It is very gratifying that there were no cases of non-respiratory or Bovine Tuberculosis notified. It is not so long ago that Tuberculosis, caused by the Bovine Tubercle Bacillus, was very common. The gradual introduction of Tuberculin Tested herds and of Pasteurisation, and the constant vigilance exercised by the Public Health Inspectors over the hygienic production and distribution of milk and over the inspection of meat in slaughterhouses, are achieving their objectives.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your assistance in the work of the Department

- 4 -

and the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR 1956.

Area:- 39,453 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-			
The Resident Population	...	...	10,330

Number of Inhabited Houses According			
to the Rate Books	...	...	3,518

Rateable Value:-	...	...	£96,741
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Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£380
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Social Conditions

West Ashford Rural District is predominately agricultural in character - there are only a few light industries. The Council has been a progressive Housing Authority, and generally social conditions are very satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

					<u>West Ashford</u> <u>Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>				
1.	Live Births	156	85	71	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	15.10	15.7
	(a) Legitimate	150	83	67			
	(b) Illegitimate	6	2	4			
2.	Stillbirths	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	12.66	23.0
	(a) Legitimate	2	2	-			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3.	Deaths	219	117	102	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	21.20	11.7
4.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not available
5.	Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.	5	1	4			
	(a) Legitimate	5	1	4			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					32.05	23.8
	Rate re legitimate infants					33.33	
	Rate re illegitimate infants					-	
6.	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					22	
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
	Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea					-	
	Deaths from Measles					-	

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The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1956.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	27
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	77
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	19
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WEST ASHFORD RURAL  
DISTRICT DURING 1956

ALL CAUSES				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
				117	102
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-
8. Measles	...	...	...	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	5	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	10	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	-
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	-	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	13	11
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	17	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	14	4
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	24	29
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	3	4
22. Influenza	...	...	...	-	-
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	7
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	19	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	5	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	1
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	-	2
35. Suicide	...	...	...	1	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-



Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1956

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1942).

Year of Birth	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1952 - 1956	20	56	62	54	56	119	109	104	88	123	117	107	100	104	8	1227
1951 or earlier	87	46	30	44	55	13	16	10	38	4	-	-	-	-	-	343

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1956.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria and (b) the number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation		1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Total
Year of Birth																	
Primary Inoculations	8	86	26	4	-	4	2	1	2	4	-	-	2	-	-	2	141
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	-	8	64	15	8	17	15	1	19	9	11	10	177
(B) Vaccination																	
Primary Vaccination	62	52	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Before 1942 4
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
																Total	119 7

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1956

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total cases on Register</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	41	12	3
1 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45 ..	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-				
55 ..	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-				
Totals	2	1	-	-	2	1	-	-				

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from that disease.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The water supply of the area is serviced by the Mid-Kent Water Company, and in addition there are three small private piped supplies. One of the above private systems servicing a hamlet has repeatedly shown the presence of B.Coli and authority has been given for a mains extension in this area. 91.4% of the houses in the District have Mid-Kent Water Company Mains Supply.

A second mains extension will be laid to a hamlet which has at present a highly contaminated "dipping" well, the water being carried nearly a quarter of a mile. With the completion of these schemes practically the whole area will have a piped water system.

During the year the following samples of water were submitted for examination.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Treated Water (Mid-Kent)	2	2	-
Untreated Water	1	1	-
Mid-Kent (Charing) Raw Water	11	11	-
Treated Water - Chemical Analysis	1	1	-

Mid-Kent water connections to residences during 1956:- ... 44

Water Supplies to houses

Mid-Kent Supplies	3,218
Private Mains	200 (approx)
Wells and other means	72 (approx)
West Ashford R.D.C. (Total houses)	3,490

With alterations of Parish boundaries etc., it is impossible to give accurate and up-to-date figures for individual Parishes.

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

There has been no change during 1956 in the number of villages receiving main drainage. Although plans were approved for the sewerage of two villages, work has been deferred by the capital shortage. The old plant at Bethersden is a potential public health danger, whilst the Charing works are grossly overloaded and causing concern with regard to the unsatisfactory effluent being discharged to a tributary of the River Stour.

Villages with Main Drainage

Charing, Smarden, Great Chart, Hothfield, Bethersden.

Sewered in part.

Egerton.

Proposed Main Sewers.

Pluckley, Charing Heath.

School Sanitation.

With the exception of Egerton Primary School, which is still serviced by ranges of trough closets, School sanitary systems are in the main satisfactory. Plans are being prepared for the modernisation and resiting of the closet accommodation at Egerton and should be completed in 1957.

Public Conveniences.

The Charing Public Convenience is filling a much needed amenity. Some damage on a minor scale due to hooliganism still persists.

3. General

			<u>No. in District</u>	<u>No. of Inspect- ions</u>	<u>No. of defects found.</u>	<u>No. of defects remedie</u>
Bakehouses	...	...	5	5	-	-
Dairies	...	...	3	2	-	-
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	45	5	-	-
Slaughterhouses	...	...	4	492	-	-
Other places where food is prepared or sold.			71	32	1	1
Offensive Trades	...	...	1	7	-	-
Factories	...	...	56	28	1	1

Analysis of nuisances and of defects remedied during the year under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Walls (External)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rainwater pipes, Gutters.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dampness - wall plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sashcords	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Cooking and heating appliances	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Baths, lavatory basins and sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage - (a) Reconstructed and new	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(c) Cleaned	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Septic Tank Plant and cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other defects:-							
W.C.'s. (a) renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	-
Water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Total No. of inspections of all kinds during the year	2,578
No. of premises connected to main sewers	6
No. of premises connected to cesspools	29
No. of Statutory Notices served	-
No. of informal notices served	40
No. of premises disinfected	24



Visits made by Public Health Inspectors

Inspection of Houses.

No. of Houses inspected on receipt of complaint	...	...	41
No. of Houses reinspected	...	...	288
No. of Houses inspected and recorded	...	...	581
(The completion of special survey was completed during 1956)			

Procedure under Housing Act, 1936 (Formal)

No. of houses where offer to modernise was accepted	...	...	-
No. of houses represented as unfit	...	...	3
No. of houses where demolition orders were made	...	...	2
No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders			1
No. of houses where undertaking not to re-let was given	...		4

4. Control of Infestation.

1. The Council employ one full-time Rodent Operator.
2. The following table gives details of work carried out during the year.

	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>		<u>All other including Business</u>
		<u>Dwelling</u>	<u>Agriculture</u>	
Total No. of Properties	9	3768	343	292
No. Surveyed	9	157	173	8
Infestations Treated				
Major ...	7	-	9	1
Minor ...	9	77	43	6

The Sewers at Charing were twice treated during the year and all sewerage plants were given a maintenance treatment.

There was an influx of rats at the Council's tip and monthly treatments were given. The Ministry's system of free treatment for domestic premises and repayment costs for business and agricultural properties was adhered to. More farmers are availing themselves of the Council's service. The rodent population appears to be on the decrease and only 17 major infestations were treated.

5. Refuse Collection

The weekly collection in the urbanised areas and the fortnightly collection in the more rural parts is still in force and widely appreciated by the public. The promiscuous dumping of rubbish and unwieldy household equipment along the roadside and in woods has practically ceased.

Tips

The tip is maintained as well as it is possible with the crude dumping system in force. Paper baling, metal and rag sorting is carried out by the staff at the tip and although this lessens the unauthorised entry by day, periodic breaking and entry takes place at night and weekends. The resident rodent population appears to be on the increase probably due to the depositing of more vegetable matter now that people are housed in closer surroundings and chicken rearing on a large scale impossible.



## Salvage

The collection of waste paper and salvageable metal and rags has been stepped up and some £1,400 was obtained from this source. The payment of an incentive bonus to the workmen ensures an 100% recovery and as the salvage collection is carried out with refuse collection, as one operation, no other expenses are incurred.

## 6. Milk Supply

1.	Registered distributors	...	11
2.	Distributors Licenced to sell Pasteurised Milk	...	6
3.	Distributors Licenced to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	5
4.	Supplementary Licences issued for Pasteurised Milk	...	6
5.	Supplementary Licences issued for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	6
6.	Registered Dairies	...	3

Ten samples of milk submitted for Biological examination. The report in each case indicated - No evidence of Tuberculosis or BR.Abortus infection.

One complaint of foreign substance was investigated and sample sent to Public Analyst who reported "Deposit consists of Oatmeal". Deduction was that oatmeal was added by child of household.

A second complaint of deposit in milk was submitted to Public Analyst. Deposit was not identified and was sent on to the British Museum. Again origin of deposit not solved but it was thought to be a condition due to the severe frosty weather prevailing at the time.

### (b) Ice Cream

All ice cream sold in the area is of the pre-wrapped variety.

Number of registered retailers - 45.

There are no manufacturers, licenced.

### (c) Meat

#### Inspections and Slaughterhouses.

Of the four licensed slaughterhouses in the District, three are private and cater only for the shop attached and the fourth sited at Charing is Wholesale. Slaughtering at the latter was carried out throughout the year on five week days, every Sunday and occasionally on Friday in each week. 100% inspection was maintained and this entailed late evening and Sunday work with a total of approximately 300 hours overtime.

Inspection was alternated weekly by the Senior and Assistant Public Health Inspectors.

The following table shows the details of the animals slaughtered together with the number affected with disease.

The figures in brackets refer to 1955:-



	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	595	185	500	4070	2160
Number inspected	595 (438)	185 (187)	500 (513)	4070 (3933)	2160 (1633)
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	3	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	93 (69)	68 (71)	2 (-)	73 (183)	82 (64)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	14.8% (13.4%)	36.7% (38%)	.4% (.5%)	1.8% (5.5%)	3.8% (4.04%)
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	- (1)	1 (1)	- (1)	- (-)	- (-)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	23 (20)	14 (30)	- (-)	- (-)	29 (15)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.8% (4.7%)	8.1% (16.5%)	- (.19%)	- (-)	1.3% (.9%)
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	1	-	-	-	-

Percentage of the No. inspected affected with cysticercosis 0.67%

Total meat and offal condemned 2 tons 13 cwt.

C. Bovis were isolated in four carcasses, resulting in the total condemnation of one and treatment by refrigeration of another and in the third and fourth cases as the cysts found were degenerated, and on full inspection no others were isolated the head was condemned, the carcasses released.

The number of cattle inspected increased by 35.8%, the cow carcasses were approximately the same as previously, the incidence of tuberculosis was lowered by 16% and 50% respectively.

Table of Disease

		<u>Meat</u>	<u>Offal</u>
Carcase of Beast	C. Bovis	660	
Carcase of Cow	Tuberculosis	725	
Part Beasts Leg	Injury	7	
Carcase of Pig	Septicaemia	84	
Carcase of Pig	Jaundice	94	
2 Sows legs	Fractures	60	



Table of Disease (Contd.)

		<u>Meat</u>	<u>Offal</u>
28 Pigs Heads	Tuberculosis	261	
4 Carcases of Sheep	Oedema & Emaciation	157	
1 Carcase of Sheep	Pyelonephritis	90	
2 Sheeps legs	Injury	10	
Sheeps Ribs	Injury	4	
Sheeps shoulder	Injury	5	
Edible Offal			3,566

Condemned in Shops

Australian Beef	Calloused	70	
Argentine	Lipomatous Atrophy	110	
Edible Offal			32
		-----	-----
		2337	3,599
		=====	=====

(d) Other Food Preparing Premises

Licenced premises were maintained satisfactorily during the year. Numbers of Public Houses have had Hot and Cold Water units installed in order to comply with the Food and Drugs Regulations 1955. The standard of bar hygiene and glass washing was good and some form of detergent was used in most premises, but the use of drying cloths for final polishing is still the rule rather than the exception. One Public House was connected to the sewer and septic tank abolished.

Restaurants Cafes and Canteens.

The Inspection of these food premises has been seriously hampered by the pressure of other work. Inspections to implement provision of Food Hygiene Regulations have commenced. No individual complaints have been received of unsatisfactory conditions. Cleanliness is of a high standard.

Bakehouses

There are four bakehouses in operation. Premises are clean and maintained satisfactorily. Five visits were made during the year.

Butchers/Grocers Shops.

The foodshops in general are kept clean and hygienic wrappings used.

Two Butchers shops and one General provision shop have already been modernised to comply with Food Regulations. Plans are in course of preparation to permanently close the Shop fronts of two further premises.

HOUSING

(a) Rural Housing Survey

During the year the inspection of dwellings was completed. About 75 houses have been recorded for future action in accordance with Section 11 Housing Act.



(b) Improvement Grants

The Council is still pursuing the policy of considering every application for a grant to improve property. This policy is saving many houses that would otherwise fall into dilapidation and is improving the amenities of many tenanted and service properties. The following table shows the type of dwellings approved during 1956.

<u>Tenanted Properties</u>	<u>Owner/Occupier</u>	<u>Tied</u>	<u>Total</u>
18	14	5	37
Total amount grant approved		Percentage per dwelling	
£9,492. 7. 4d.		£251. 1s.	

Hop Pickers Camps

Seven visits were paid to the three camps during the picking season. The two large camps at Pluckley had a full quota of pickers and the Red Cross were in attendance.

Scavenging was carried out at regular intervals and the general cleanliness of the camps was satisfactory. The system of employing, where possible, local pickers, is reducing the influx of the traditional picking families from the East London areas.

